



Fort Riley Post

Gifts galore

Shop changes name, inventory to offer special memorabilia

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Friday, December 8, 2006

Home of the Big Red One

Vol. 49, No. 49

Post, Army news briefs

Leases prohibit doubling up in post housing

Residents of on-post family housing considering doubling up to save money should review their lease requirements regarding guests.

When assigned family housing, the occupants provide Picerne Military Housing with the names of the family members who will live in their home. This list is included in the Resident Occupancy Agreement (lease).

That lease then states, "No other persons, other than those identified in this Agreement, are authorized to reside in the home."

The Fort Riley Resident Responsibility Guide provides further details regarding guests and the prohibition of subletting or subleasing residences.

If more than one military family shares a home at Fort Riley, they may violate the provisions of the lease unless approval for guests was obtained in accordance with the Resident Responsibility Guide.

Military families needing a place to live should not jeopardize their friends' housing situations by moving in with them. They should report to Building 45, Carr Hall, to complete an application with Picerne Military Housing or to receive off-post housing referrals from the government Housing Services Office.

Division band slates concert at McCain

The 1st Infantry Division Band will perform a free holiday concert Dec. 15. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in McCain Auditorium at Kansas State University. The public is invited to attend.

Free tickets must be obtained to be admitted to the concert.

Tickets are available at Fort Riley's ITR Office, 239-5614; the McCain Auditorium Box Office, (785) 532-6428; or by sending a SASE to McCain Auditorium, Kansas State University, 207 McCain Auditorium, Manhattan, KS 66506-4711.

Stay in Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch "In Step with Fort Riley" at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBW TV, Channel 13.

Planned for this week's show, which runs on WIBW TV Dec. 9 and on the post's cable channel 2 Dec. 11-17, are stories about:

Operation Santa Claus toy march and how to get involved in OCS.

The post's Holiday Tree lighting ceremony.

4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team training at National Training Center.

New exhibit at post's U.S. Cavalry Museum showing uniforms Hollywood used in movies.

Delegates decide on top issues

Family Action Plan conference puts war injuries as Army priority for 2007

By Margaret McKenzie
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Delegates at the 24th Army Family Action Plan conference reviewed 68 issues from Army installations throughout the world Nov. 14-17.

The issues were sorted into eight workgroup categories: wounded warrior, entitlements, two family support groups, two force-support and medical groups and an outside-the-continental-United States group.

Delegates determined the top five conference issues of 2006 to be:

- Traumatic brain injury rehabilitation program at military medical centers,
- Traumatic servicemember's group life insurance annual supplement,
- Co-pay for replacement parts of durable medical equipment and

- prosthetics,
- Convicted sex offender registry outside the continental United States, and
- Retroactive traumatic service-members group life insurance compensation.

The top five critical active issues previously introduced into

the AFAP process include:

- Award contracts for household-goods shipments to moving companies based on performance and claims history, as well as cost.

Provide full replacement value for lost or damaged household goods;

See Family issues, Page 2

Shop a lot ...

Santa's elves load PX carts with 'cheer'

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

Operation Santa Claus volunteer Jack Lee stood in check out lane No. 5 at the Fort Riley Main Post Exchange Nov. 30 and wrote a check for \$2,770.92 to pay for about 10 carts overflowing with toys.

The morning began when Lee and other volunteers gathered at the PX and donned their Operation Santa Claus hats to identify them as volunteers for the post toy drive. Each volunteer had an age group to buy for.

Jean Humphrey's mission was to find items for boys and girls ages 0 to 3. Kim Jackson was looking for things for girls ages 12 to 14.

Jackson said she thought her task would be a bit more difficult because girls that age are a "little picky," and she should know because she has a 12-year-old daughter. "She gave me a little input on what not to get," Jackson said. Items on the not-to-get list were dolls, books and "little tiny purses."

See Toy shopping, Page 3



Above: Volunteers with Operation Santa Claus line up Nov. 30 in a check-out lane at the Post Exchange with carts full of toys. After more than \$1,200 in discounts, the volunteers paid a little more than \$2,700 for the 258 items they selected for area children.

At left: Operation Santa Claus volunteer Jean Humphrey lifts a stack of play sets onto the checkout counter at the Fort Riley Post Exchange Nov. 30.

Hunters beware; patrols catch violators

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

Two to three times a year, Fort Riley game wardens catch poachers doing something that results in a "big case," said Game Warden Tom Duckworth.

Most of the time, however, the people caught violating hunting and fishing laws and regulations have succumbed to situational temptation rather than intentionally breaking the law, he added.

The "big cases" could be someone intentionally hunting from a vehicle or hunting without a license or tag, he said. A lot of the "big cases" involve deer. "If we had more game birds, there would be a problem with quail and pheasant," he said.

Other big cases have resulted when sportsmen used a light to hunt at night or shot game out of season. "Several hunters have been caught without licenses," he said.

Those tempting times that might get a hunter in trouble could come when an elk walks by out of season or a deer is within range but standing in an off-limits area. "Sometimes, the temptation to shoot is too much for a hunter to pass up," Duckworth said.

Whether the poaching is intentional or not, Fort Riley prosecutes violators of state and post hunting and fishing laws and regulations to the maximum extent possible, Duckworth warned. The maximum fine imposed could be as much as \$10,000, he said. But that's not all. Any equipment the person used could be subject to confiscation, including the truck used to haul the animal away and the house where the person stored the butchered animal in a freezer, Duckworth said.

He and two other civilian wardens and two military police wardens patrol the post to keep outdoormen honest and to catch

See Poaching, Page 4

'Black Lions' experiment with war strategy

1st Bn., 28th Inf., employs 'residency' approach during NTC exercises

1st Bn., 28th Inf.

A knock at the mayor's house in Medina Jabal at 4 a.m. informs that a cordon and search operation Company B, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, was conducting triggered a significant offensive operation in the "Iraqi capital" at the

National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

"This operation reflects the lethal portion of our overall strategy in Medina Jabal: to identify insurgents and surgically remove them from the law abiding populace. We do not want to create more enemy than already exist in

Iraq," said Capt. Brian Ducote, Co. B's commander. The "Black Lions" were successful in this cordon and search, apprehending two individuals identified as high value targets and locating multiple caches of insurgent weapons and ammunition.

Before deploying to the

National Training Center, the "Black Lion" battalion developed an engagement strategy for the mock Iraqi communities that would be within the 1st Bn., 28th Inf., area of operations. The "Black Lions" would combine lethal and non-lethal effects to defeat the insurgency and build

popular support and confidence in the Iraqi government.

Additionally, "Black Lion" Soldiers would adopt a residency approach, maintaining a constant presence in these Iraqi communities and denying the insurgents

See Medina Jabal, Page 4





Post, Army news briefly

Court-martial convicts Soldier

On Nov. 27, Pfc. Laura Rinehart was tried at a Special Court-Martial and found guilty of one specification of being absent without leave for six days, one specification of being absent without leave for 14 days, and one specification of being absent without leave for 15 days with the intent to avoid field exercises.

The military judge sentenced her to be reduced to the grade of E1, to forfeit \$849 pay per month for three months, to be confined for 68 days and to be discharged from the service with a Bad-Conduct Discharge.

Infantry Ball tickets on sale

Tickets are on sale for the Fort Riley Infantry Ball Jan. 20 at the Junction City Marriott Convention Center.

The ball's keynote speaker will be retired Brig. Gen. David Grange, former 1st Inf. Div. commanding general.

Any Infantryman assigned to Fort Riley or any Soldier assigned to an Infantry unit is invited. Tickets cost \$25 and may be purchased through the Infantry battalions and the 4th IBCT commander.

Family issues

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- Allow Soldiers with at least 10 years of service to transfer their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents;

- Authorize the use of permissive temporary duty for fathers upon birth of a child;

- Eliminate the expiration date for Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits; and

- Allow servicemembers to accumulate 90 days of leave until termination of service.

Delegates identified four services as this year's most valuable: Army Community Service; Morale, Welfare and Recreation; Army Wounded Warrior Program; and medical care.

Additionally, the delegates voted on the top five mobilization/deployment and family support strengths. Included on the list were Military OneSource and Army Community Service programs. Morale Welfare and Recreation, family readiness groups and rest and relaxation tied for third place, and the rapid fielding initiative rounded out the list.

The top three mobilization/deployment and family challenges as determined by the delegates were length and extension of deployments; deployment personnel tempo; and the stop-loss program. The need for more standard National Guard, Active Guard and Reserve, Army Reserve, and active-duty remote family readiness groups, and incomplete family reintegration training for children and teens tied for fourth place.

A meeting of the General Officer Steering Committee chaired



AFAP delegates Karin Markert, Myra Williams and Michelle Zittrouer, with others, participate in the Force Support work group at the 24th AFAP conference in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 14-17. During the five-day conference, delegates reviewed 68 issues from Army installations throughout the world to improve standards of living for Soldiers and families.

by the Lt. Gen. James Lovelace was held in conjunction with the AFAP conference. Senior Department of Defense and Army leaders reviewed 24 issues in the AFAP process. Two were com-

pleted:

- Dental and Vision Insurance Coverage for Federal Employees. Public Law U.S.108-496 authorizes a stand-alone dental and vision benefit program for federal

employees. Employees will pay 100 percent of the premium costs for dental and vision coverage.

The Office of Personnel Management has implemented seven supplemental dental plans and

three vision benefit plans for federal employees, retirees and their dependents. Open season began Nov. 13 and ends Dec. 11.

- Basic allowance for housing for activated Reserve component. The fiscal 2006 National Defense Authorization Act authorized full BAH for Reserve-component Soldiers on active duty after 30 days of service regardless of the type of orders or reason used to bring the Soldiers to active duty.

Of the issues that were presented, 22 were listed as active and will be worked until resolution. The GOSC approved the entry of two new issues into the AFAP-Army Career and Alumni Program funding and permanent family readiness support assistants.

AFAP was created in 1983 with the initial AFAP planning conference, and developed fully in 1984 to help the Army address the needs and concerns of family members. The program highlighted the importance of Army families to overall Army success.

The concept of identifying issues to be resolved through worldwide representation of Army family members grew into the AFAP process. It provides a way for policy to become a tangible end-product for Soldiers and their families.

The Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command oversees the AFAP process to ensure that issues are referred to the appropriate agencies for resolution. Semi-annual GOSC meetings monitor the progress of each issue until it is resolved or deemed unattainable.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2college@tts11/03 t f

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2Candlewood Est. 11/03 t f

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
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USAA CORPORATION- AFC
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Post, Army news briefly

EEO office moves

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office has moved to Building 211 on Custer Avenue on Main Post.

The office's phone numbers remain the same, 239-2595 and 239-3263.

Abuse program offers classes

The Fort Riley Army Substance Abuse Program conducts monthly classes for Soldiers in the rank of sergeant and above who have been selected by unit commanders to assist them as an ASAP subject matter expert.

During the certification process, Soldiers learn how to administer the Unit Biochemical Testing program, assist commanders in briefing new unit personnel regarding ASAP policies, procedures and services, and how to develop, manage and facilitate the ASAP prevention education program to their Soldiers.

Classes are scheduled Dec. 13-14, Jan. 24-25, Feb. 21-22, March 21-22, April 25-26, May 23-24, and June 13-14.

The Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course has a rigorous two-day curriculum with a required final test to achieve UPL certification. The course will be taught from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each scheduled day at the Digital Training Facility in Building 7285.

For information on the Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course or how to enroll Soldiers for the class, call Clyde Sallee, Fort Riley UPL training coordinator, at 239-1928 or 239-4151.

COPELAND INSURANCE
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 Copeland Ins Work Comp

LAKE-SIDE MARINE
1 x 4"
Black Only
1x4 Lakeside Marine

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ABILENE
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Black Only
1x4 .Jhodiaccount.11/26.2423.1k

Toy shopping

continued from page 1

"They don't want books, they want lip gloss and they want fingernail polish and radios or headphones sets," Jackson said.

Since finding items for the older kids proved to be a bit more of a challenge for the volunteer shoppers, the spending limit for those gifts was increased.

"We're going to pump it up to about \$20 a gift because it's hard, with the pricing of gifts right now, trying to find some things that are going to be quality and nice gifts for the kids," explained volunteer Amber Stelwein.

Once inside the PX, most of the volunteers headed for the toy department. Jackson headed to electronics, where she stacked carts with portable CD players, pre-paid cell phone cards and even an almost \$100 cell phone that had been returned and was greatly marked down because the package was opened.

Shopper haggles for discounts

Jackson wasn't the only one searching for bargains. Across the store in the toy section, Humphrey haggled with the PX manager for deals on everything from dolls to scooters.

"If we buy all eight can we get a discount?" Humphrey asked about a stack of Dora the Explorer scooters sitting at the end of one of the aisles.

As the savings grew, the shoppers packed more and more toys and games into their carts, each keeping a tally of their buys on a clipboard so they didn't exceed their spending limit. Each volun-

teer selected about \$500 worth of toys for the toy drive.

Gathering at the register to see the final total, the group cheered to learn that they were under their \$3,000 limit for the first toy buy of the season and that they saved more than \$1,200 on the 258 items they purchased.

\$8,000 donation pays for toys

The toys were bought with money from more than \$8,000 in donations Operation Santa Claus has received this year. Lee said the volunteers plan to do at least two more toy buys before Christmas, but that really depends on the number of toys given away.

"We've got thousands of toys," Lee said. "We're ready to give everyone a toy. We need to be busier, as a matter of fact."

Most of the toys are distributed to families at Fort Riley, but the Operation Santa Claus "elves" also take them to surrounding communities to distribute them, Lee explained. Units on post have forms Soldiers can fill out to request toys from the toy drive.

"Toy distribution really isn't based on need or want," Lee said of the process. "We don't think that anybody who doesn't deserve a toy is going to take one."

Besides the toys from the first toy buy, Operation Santa Claus takes monetary donations and has toy drop off points at the PX, the commissary, financial institutions on post and all brigade headquarters.

Off-post, people can drop off new, unwrapped toys at Wal-Mart

in Manhattan and Junction City and at the Dollar Store in Junction City. A local cable company has offered a discount to customers who brought in a new toy, Lee said. "That has been phenomenal, the number of toys they've received."

Besides shopping, the Operation Santa Claus volunteers also spend their time at their headquarters in Building 261, wrapping presents and filling orders. Humphrey, a military spouse and first-time volunteer with the toy drive, said she plans to continue helping as long as she and her husband are stationed at Fort Riley.

"I think it's a great program and just a way to get active in the community, help the kids, help the Soldiers from Fort Riley and to repay them for their service to our country."

'Elf' enjoys helping Soldiers' families

Jackson helped out last year and said she thinks the program is really important with so many people not able to make it home to families or with having parents deployed. "Some of our Soldiers can't afford some things, so we're here to help the Soldiers and put a smile on the kids' faces," she said.

For more information on Operation Santa Claus or to find out about toy donations and distributions, call the toy drive headquarters at 239-6944.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.



Post/Morelock
Kim Jackson shows a doll to Barbara Kent as a suggestion for something to buy during the first Operation Santa Claus toy buy of the year Nov. 30 at the PX.



Post/Morelock
Ajita Curry and Travis Bittenbender load purchases into the Operation Santa Claus truck after the first toy buy of the season Nov. 30 at the Post Exchange.

VALASSIS- AFC
5 x 13"
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Medina Jabal

continued from page 1

freedom of maneuver.

"The citizens had not seen this approach before and were skeptical at first, but we made believers out of them by reducing the number of insurgent attacks," said Pfc. Tamer Kazan, a fluent Arabic speaker.

While the "Black Lions" had conducted lethal operations during the battalion's training cycle, most of its Soldiers were unfamiliar with the non-lethal operations being planned for implementation at the NTC.

"We directed our non-lethal operations at the silent Iraqi majority. These civic programs are designed to highlight progress and build confidence in the legitimately elected Iraqi leaders.

"If the majority sees repeated non-lethal victories on the Coalition side, we will defeat the insurgent strategy of attempting to separate the Iraqi government and the citizens," said Capt. Charles Turner, the "Black Lions" effects officer.

The "Black Lions" attacked the insurgents with multiple non-lethal operations: removing debris from the city streets, sewer and water projects, medical and dental assistance visits, development of a new school and medical clinic, donations of school supplies and construction of a community soccer field.

Nasser Hakeem al Tayi, the Medina Jabal police chief, commented, "Your civic programs were well-received by the people. Most importantly, you involved Iraqi leaders on these programs and made them responsible for a successful outcome."

Co. B's security posture around Medina Jabal placed a stranglehold on insurgents attempting to operate in the capital city.

The jointly manned Iraqi and U.S. Army entry control points denied enemy movement of weapons into Medina Jabal, creating friction for insurgent attacks as the "Black Lions" located



4th IBCT Photo

The mayor of Medina Jabal cuts the ribbon on the soccer field constructed and donated by the "Black Lions" to the citizens of the city.

weapons caches throughout the city.

By using Scout Platoon observers, unmanned aerial vehicle flights, information from sources and patrols interacting with Iraqi citizens, the "Black Lions" developed actionable intelligence on insurgents operating in Medina Jabal.

Working closely with their Iraqi police and army counterparts, Co. B conducted numerous lethal operations based on the actionable intelligence to remove enemy forces from the city.

As in the non-lethal operations, it was a priority to ensure all lethal actions had Iraqi forces at the front, becoming more proficient on every mission.

On Nov. 17, the incoming district administrator for the Ninewah Governorate was sworn in at Medina Jabal. Based on the residency approach to securing the capital city, the "Black Lions" defeated the insurgent attempts to disrupt the inauguration ceremony, enabling the Iraqi government to conduct a successful high

profile event.

The bottom-line on the success of the "Black Lions" engagement strategy in Medina Jabal was evident in the poll of Iraqi citizens: Only 50 percent of the populace supported Coalition efforts when 1st Bn., 28th Inf., assumed operational control of the area; however, after a combination of lethal and non-lethal operations and the residency approach, 92 percent of the Medina Jabal citizens supported Coalition actions.

Poaching

continued from page 1

those who aren't. They all trained specially for wildlife law enforcement, including protection of endangered species, protection of non-game species and protection of cultural resources on post, such as historical or burial sites.

"We routinely patrol the 101,000 acres that are potentially open to the sportsman," Duckworth said.

"We run decoy missions with electronic deer and have caught colonels to privates first class to civilians" shooting at them because they thought they were real, he added.

Part of the patrolling in the past has been done in helicopters, Duckworth said. With more helicopters being stationed at Fort Riley, he said the wardens plan to increase the number of flight patrols they do.

The civilian wardens wear distinctive uniforms, but not always. Sometimes the wardens work undercover, Duckworth said, using privately owned vehicles and wearing hunter clothes.

"We use night vision equipment, too," he said.

"We all hunt and fish," he added, "so we're out there even when we're off duty." Wardens can arrest poachers even though they are off duty.

The wardens also have developed a good rapport with a lot of anglers and hunters on post, Duckworth said, and "they are extra eyes and ears for us."

When anyone observes a hunting or fishing violation, a call to the wardens' hot line, the military police or to the Fort Riley Operations Center will notify wardens of the offense.

The hot line is 239-GAME. People can call the military police desk at 239-MPMP. The FROC phone number is 239-2222.

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EAE
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684373 RU from 11/24



Commentary

Friday, December 8, 2006

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What is your favorite thing to do around the holidays?



"My favorite thing to do is decorating the Christmas tree."

Jesse Bonilla
3rd grader
Mrs. Pushee's class
Ware Elementary School



"Spending time with my family. Sometimes we go to my grandma's house or just stay home and sit around the Christmas tree, open presents and talk."

Destiny Cox
5th grader
Mr. Upham's class
Ware Elementary School



"Open my presents."

Kyleigh Raun
Kindergartener
Ms. Rose's class
Ware Elementary School



"I like decorating my house (with lights)."

Ashlee Ream
2nd grader
Mrs. Leturgez's class
Ware Elementary School



"Go visit family. I have family all over the place, so we alternate."

Erika Rose
Kindergartener
Ware Elementary School

Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached.

Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or fax them to 239-2592.

Perhaps one of the most honorable things a person can do during their lifetime is to give to others. Acts such as contributing part of your paycheck to charitable organizations truly reflect honor, selflessness and a belief in all things good.

I am happy to report to you that honor runs strong at Fort Riley. The Fort Riley Combined Federal Campaign has been a tremendous success. With contributions totaling more than \$208,000, we have far surpassed our goal of \$175,000.

This money did not appear out of nowhere. This money came from you. It came from civilian employees signing small slips of paper, promising a one-time payment of \$20, or Soldiers pledging \$4 a month.

Many, many people contributed to their favorite charity, and I thank each and every one of you for your generosity, your honor, your selflessness.

A very special thanks goes to the Fort Riley CFC coordinator - Dori Farrow. This wonderful woman was the key to our great



Maj. Gen. Carter Ham

success. She truly believes in what she is doing, and that gave her the strength to pull this campaign through.

Beyond that, though, Dori took the time to answer the great many questions from the field and to provide updated information for commanders. She provided the source of the enthusiasm, of the pride and of the spirit of giving.

Dori is the first to credit her great board from this year. The board has been working since last March to make this a great success.

All I owe a big "thank you!" to these great people: Linda Hoefner, deputy garrison commander and chair; Durlene Bryson, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; Thelma Guice, G8; Jerry Hires, Directorate of Public

Works; Clyde Lovelace, Directorate of Logistics; Anna Morelock, Public Affairs Office; Jan Tilley, Installation Chaplain's Office; Nance Warnica, Provost Marshal's Office; and Capt. Lisa Witcher, 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. My thanks to all of you for your hard work.

At the unit level, our key workers made it their goal to contact every one of their co-workers and explain the program. Through their efforts, we had the information we needed to make the right decision - to pledge money. My thanks to all of you. A couple of great key workers I'd like to recognize are Staff Sgt. Douglas of Medical Department Activity and 1st Lt. Mohamed Massaqoui of the Combat Aviation Battalion. Great work!

I also want to recognize a few special units and organizations whose spirit truly reflects the honor of giving. These units had a very high participation level, with many members of the unit

contributing to the campaign. That is truly remarkable and a sign of some great teamwork.

My congratulations to the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion, the 116th Military Police Company, and the 977th MP Company.

Other generous organizations include the 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, our great Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, and the soon-to-deploy 24th Transportation Company. Thank you!

But it took all of you - everyone who took the time to fill out a slip, who found it more important to give than to keep and who understood the great influence we have through charity. It was teamwork, again, that made us successful in meeting this worthy challenge.

Congratulations, Fort Riley, and a big "thank you" from Christi and me.

Duty First!

Maj. Gen. Carter F. Ham
Commanding General
1st Infantry Division
and Fort Riley

From the top

Honorable acts put Fort Riley over top

Thoughts on safety

Precautions help make holidays happy

By Alex Bender

Installation Safety Office

"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney without care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The tree, lights and wreaths all looked very nice.

When putting them up, safety was not thought of twice. With mother in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,

Had just settled our brains for a long night's nap. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see a fireman with a ladder. Our house was on fire, the alarm was no joke.

When I forgot safety, Christmas went up in smoke.

The holiday season is upon us. The ornate decorations that mark the Christmas season will be unfurled soon. Holiday decorations may seem innocent, but they can become the culprits behind a holiday tragedy - if safety is forgotten.

Dry Christmas trees, faulty electrical systems, unsafe wiring and unsafe fireplaces can be hazards that ruin your holiday celebration. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe

during this holiday season. For many people, the Christmas tree is the signature decoration for the holiday season. Festive trees can be beautiful; however, they can be a fire hazard if safety precautions are not followed.

If using a live tree, make sure to purchase a fresh one. To test a tree for freshness, gently grab a branch close to the trunk and pull outward, then examine your hand for needles.

A fresh tree will leave a few to no needles in your hand. If you have a handful of needles, shop for a different tree.

When taking a new tree home, shake off as many dead needles as possible before carrying the tree into the house. Select a location for the tree away from fireplaces, heating vents and other sources of heat that may dry it out.

Saw about 1 inch off the bottom of the tree's trunk. Place the tree in a stand that holds at least one gallon of water. Keep the water level above the bottom of the trunk. Proper watering keeps the tree fresh and green and lowers the chance of fire.

A 6-foot tree will use one gallon of water every two days.

If using an artificial tree, find one that is flame retardant and approved by the Underwriters Laboratory (UL). For a metallic tree, use spotlights - not a string of electric lights - to prevent the possibility of electrical shock.

Safety rules for Christmas lights should not be taken lightly. Use lights that have the UL label. These products are inspected by safety professionals and are the safest to use.

Check electrical wiring for signs of wear, tear and visible damage. Decorations with frayed

cables or broken lights should be discarded.

Do not overload extension cords or use more than three strings of lights linked together. Do not place extension cords under rugs, through ceiling tiles and walls or in frequently traveled paths.

Grunt By Wayne Ulden



FORT RILEY POST

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al-Sharq poses challenge for ‘Black Lions’

By 1st Lt. Derrick Elze
and 1st Lt. Michael Scheer
Co. A, 1st Bn., 28th Inf.

The small town of al-Sharq, located about 20 kilometers east of Medina Jabel, posed an interesting challenge for the “Black Lions” training at the National Training Center in November.

Distant from the “Dragon Brigade’s” center of gravity, it provided an ideal staging area for insurgents operating within the “Black Lion” area of operations. Its small population could not provide for their own security. The town was troubled with social, ethnic and religious tension, leaving an opportunity for an insurgent group to easily find a safe haven from which to conduct operations.

To successfully defeat the counterinsurgency in al-Sharq, the “Black Lions” needed to re-establish security through a full-time presence in the town and to regain stability by restoring key infrastructure and the local government’s credibility.

Before deploying to the NTC at Fort Irwin, Calif., for rotation 02-07, Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, went over many ideas about how to deal with an insurgency at the company level. Using the Twenty-Eight Articles

of the Fundamentals of Counterinsurgency and lessons learned as a base, Co. A generated a plan.

“Planning for stability operations and support operations is much different than what I am used to. The traditional military plan of fire and maneuver is insufficient in dealing with the many facets of counter-insurgency and nation building,” remarked Capt. Bret Hamilton, Co. A commander.

Co. A used a combination of military tactics and a “Love Bank” strategy. It moved confidently into al-Sharq on Nov. 7, but before any level of stability could be regained, security would have to be established.

Key to the security of al-Sharq was cooperation with the Iraqi police force. Adopting a residency approach, Co. A ran 24-hour squad patrols through the streets and manned traffic control points outside the town. The constant patrols often included Iraqi police officers and showed the populace that the company was there to stay and that they were willing to put themselves in danger at all hours in order to establish a more secure environment for the city.

The increased security allowed normalcy to return to al-Sharq and gave confidence to the Iraqi Police. With security established, the focus shifted into providing stability.



4th IBCT Photo

Capt. Charles Turner negotiates the new water system project and contract with al-Sharq’s chief engineer.

Providing stability would dislodge the insurgents and decrease their popular support. Co. A used some early wins that improved the day-to-day lives of the citizens of al-Sharq. These early wins included supplying potable water to the town, fixing the generator

that supplied the town’s electricity, removing broken down cars from the streets and donating school supplies and a soccer field to the town’s children.

Key to the success of any operation was ensuring that an Iraqi face was put on it, especially

security. Working with the local government officials was key to the success of establishing the stability of al-Sharq.

Ethnic division between the Arabs and the Kurds was a problem in al-Sharq.

Although the Kurdish citizens made up 40 percent of al-Sharq’s total population, they were not represented equally in the local government or police force.

To make matters worse, the insurgents living in the town focused on this fissure, attempting to incite civil unrest based upon it.

The Kurdish civilians invited the Peshmerga, a Kurdish Militia group, to serve as security for themselves in response to real or perceived abuses by the Arab community.

The problem had to be resolved immediately if any lasting stability was to be established.

A political agreement was drafted between the town leadership and the Peshmerga Militia that provided for the Peshmerga’s abatement of carrying weapons on the street. In exchange, the town council agreed to two Kurdish members entering the local Iraqi

Police force. This improved the security and stability of al Sharq, and defused a potential time bomb.

Co. A continued to patrol the streets but shifted the focus from hunting insurgents to searching for weapons caches.

It found 24 such caches within the city. In doing so, it helped stabilize the area of operations by taking weapons such as multiple 155mm artillery rounds commonly used in IED fabrication, 82mm and 60mm mortar rounds, multiple AK-47s, rockets, land mines, rocket-propelled grenades and bomb making materials off the street.

Confiscating these weapons effectively rendered the insurgents unable to conduct operations.

Long-term improvements also were made by focusing on the establishment and legitimacy of the regional government and its elected leaders.

This was accomplished by drafting contracts to rebuild the town’s sewage system and providing medical care to the townspeople.

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Post/Morelock
Carolyn Christensen from the Directorate of Public Works and Dawn Barclay from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center make the rounds at the health fair Nov. 30 at Riley's Conference Center.

Fair details benefits

Sixteen companies were on hand Nov. 30 to provide post employees information about benefits for federal employees.

Federal employees can make changes to their health, vision, and dental benefits and their flexible spending accounts once a year during the open season for enrollment, which runs until Dec. 11 this year.

Coverage programs include:

FEHB – Federal Employees Health Benefits: Medical coverage for doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospitalization, etc. To learn more about FEHB visit <http://www.opm.gov/insurance/health/>. To make plan changes visit the Army Benefits Center – Civilian at www.abc.army.mil.

FEDVIP – Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program: Supplemental dental and vision benefits. If enrolled in FEHB, your FEHB plan's dental/vision benefits are the primary coverage, FEDVIP is secondary. For more information on FEDVIP visit <http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision/> or www.BENEFEDS.com. To make changes to a FEDVIP plan, visit www.BENEFEDS.com or call (877)888-3337.

FSAs – Flexible Spending Accounts: Pre-tax accounts for out-of-pocket medical and dependent care expenses. For more information on, or to make changes to a FSA, visit www.fsaeds.gov or call (877)372-3337.

Soldiers take plunge after re-upping

By Capt. Joel Huelsmann
Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf.

While some believe the current Global War on Terrorism, "The Long War," will adversely affect re-enlistments, five Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, took the plunge (some literally) and swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States for another term of enlistment.

Due to the unique mix of forces in the Horn of Africa, where the Soldiers are serving, these five

Soldiers had an opportunity to participate in very unique re-enlistment ceremonies.

A Special Boat Team of the Naval Special Warfare Unit is in the area of responsibility, training Coast Guard and Naval personnel. They were very accommodating, taking the 16th Inf. party "out to sea" in their Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat. That's where Spcs. Robert M. McIntosh, Nicholas R. Minton, Daniel S. Tate and Rodney W. Leverett Jr. executed their Oath of Re-Enlistment.

While returning to the pier, the

Sailors were more than happy to demonstrate what their RHIB could do.

After a couple of gut-wrenching turns and high-speed passes, the 16th Inf. Soldiers were thankfully nearing the pier to disembark.

What the Infantry Soldiers didn't know was the Sailors' tradition of allowing newly re-enlisted Sailors and Soldiers to swim to the pier. Soon, all the Soldiers were all in the water swimming for the pier ladder to get back on

dry land.

Spc. Anthony C. Slocumb had a different and much drier re-enlistment experience. He was part of a port security detail for the recent port visit of the USNS Henson.

The captain of the ship allowed the security detail the use of the ship's deck, and the captain and some of his crew stood in formation as Slocumb committed himself to fighting the Global War on Terrorism for another five years.



1st Bn., 16th Inf., Photo

Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., Soldiers observe a Navy tradition of swimming to shore after re-enlisting aboard a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat while serving in the Horn of Africa.

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CAB nears Army goal for flu vaccinations



By Sgt. Nicole M. Clarke
1st Inf. Div.

Healthcare specialists from the Combat Aviation Brigade have screened and administered more than 1,500 FluMists and more than 80 intravenous flu vaccines to CAB Soldiers since Oct. 19, the first CAB flu clinic date.

The Department of the Army Medical Command wants to administer the flu vaccine to 90 percent of Soldiers Army wide by Dec. 31.

The CAB is well on its way to reaching its part in that goal. As of Nov. 28, the CAB had reached 87 percent of its Soldiers with 30 days left to reach its goal.

Before Soldiers receive the vaccine, they are screened to determine if they are pregnant and to make sure they do not have conditions such as allergies to eggs, asthmatic conditions or other conditions that prevent them from getting the flu mist or vaccine.

FluMist should not be used under any circumstances in any-

one with an allergy to any part of the vaccine, including eggs; in children and adolescents receiving aspirin therapy; in people who have a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome; and in people with known or suspected immune system problems, according to the FluMist Web site.

Pregnant women and people with certain medical conditions, asthma or reactive airways disease should not get FluMist.

During the screening process, Soldiers have to fill out a MEDCOM Form 4700, said Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Johannik, CAB's medical operations sergeant.

"On the form are questions pertaining to age, gender and previous medical history, if they are allergic to eggs, if they are asthmatic," Johannik said.

"If the Soldiers answer 'yes' to any of those questions, it defers them from getting the FluMist and, depending on what they answered 'yes' to, they will get the vaccine.

"If they are allergic to eggs or egg products, they are exempt

from the flu shot all together," he said.

Once Soldiers are prescreened, they are checked in and their information is entered into the Medical Protection System, Johannik said.

MEDPROS is the Army's electronic health database. After they are prescreened they go back to the room to receive their FluMist, which is administered intranasal, or the intravenous vaccine.

FluMist is given in the nose and is designed only to work in the nose. FluMist is designed to help the human body develop disease fighting antibodies. After vaccination with FluMist, these disease fighting antibodies can develop in the nose and the bloodstream.

For some Soldiers, this was their first time getting the mist.

"This was my first time getting the mist," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Brilliant, communications chief with Headquarters and

Headquarters Company. "It didn't hurt and it was over with pretty fast."

The FluMist is a live version of the flu virus, whereas the vaccine is an inert virus, Johannik said.

Because FluMist is made from a weakened version of the flu virus, it is designed to cause the immune system to respond and help protect the body from the flu without actually causing a case of the flu, according to the FluMist Web site.

In studies of people between the ages of 5 and 49, side effects were generally mild and temporary. Runny nose was the most common.

Other common side effects included various cold-like symptoms, such as headache, cough, sore throat, tiredness, weakness, irritability and muscle aches.

Editor's note: Information on the FluMist came from its Web site, www.flumist.com.

CAB/Clarke

Spec. Junior Mamea (left) of HHC, CAB, administers the FluMist to Sgt. Robert Acridge Nov. 21. Acridge is one of more than 1,500 CAB Soldiers who have gotten the FluMist since Oct. 19.

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Post, Army news briefly

Youngsters spread cheer

Young athletes and dancers of Capital Area Gymnastics and Top Notch Talent Dance & Cheer participated in "Seasons Greetings for Soldiers" Dec. 8 in Topeka, Kan. The special event allowed children to create handmade holiday cards to send to a unit overseas and special gifts donated from members of the community.

Cards and gifts will be sent to the 1st Maintenance Company of Fort Riley. The company deployed to Iraq Aug. 23 and is expected to be gone for a year.

Capt. Martisse Best-Dettmer is the mother of one of the young gymnasts at Capital Area Gymnastics and has helped with advice and information. Her husband, Capt. Travis Dettmer is with the unit overseas and will be receiving the holiday care package from CAGE & TNT students.

Public Works offers boughs

Units, housing occupants and activities at Fort Riley desiring cedar and pine boughs to decorate the interior and exterior of their buildings can pick up the boughs at the Public Works parking lot on Dickman Avenue, across from Building 364 on Main Post.

Boughs will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis from Nov. 20 through Dec. 26.

Extreme care should be taken to avoid fire hazards when using the boughs. Frequent misting or sprinkling of boughs with water is recommended to retard their drying out.

All units, housing occupants and activities are reminded that cutting pine and cedar trees or branches anywhere on the installation is prohibited.

For more information, call 239-3908.

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Fort Riley 'turns on' holiday spirit

Tree lighting ceremony welcomes season, Santa; honors acts of kindness

By Pvt. Andrea E. Merritt
DISCOM

Fort Riley Soldiers and their families gathered with season's greetings in their hearts for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 30 at Ware Parade Field.

Hot chocolate and cookies helped guests keep warm in the cold weather as Col. Thomas Day, the installation chaplain, began the ceremony with a word of prayer. Then, before the holiday lights could come up, the post flag

had to come down. The tree lighting ceremony was held in conjunction with the daily retreat ceremony.

After "Old Glory's" exit, Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, remarked, "We take this opportunity to kick off a joyous holiday season, and it is indeed that. This year it is especially poignant, as we have members of our own families who are presently deployed... It is important that we take time to recognize that and say thanks."

Kindness earns award

Staff report

A Fort Riley Soldier and contracted vendor servicing the post were among eight individuals honored at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 30 for their Random Acts of Kindness.

The awards are presented annually and are coordinated by Credit Union 1 on post.

Staff Sgt. Preston Pickle of the 1st Replacement Company was honored for coming to the aid of a new family at Fort Riley. When he learned that a couple with two children would have to go to the hospital to have their third child through induced labor, but had no way to care for their chil-

dren while at the hospital, Pickle volunteered to take the children overnight.

Charles Finger, a Junction City resident, restocks vending machines at Fort Riley. Finger leads the Christmas Shoebox gift drive to help less fortunate children have a good Christmas.

He also is known to always have a kind and encouraging word for everyone he meets on post, and everyone gets a smile and a genuine moment of care from him.

Other honorees were Pat Livingston and Shelly Smith of Ogden, Tom Tavtigan and Vicki Gwartney of Manhattan, and Fred Reid and Geri Smith of Junction City.

Harrison Archer, 4, and sister, Lucy, 3, helped the commanding general light the tree.

"It was an honor to be asked (to light the tree)," said Michelle Archer, Harrison's and Lucy's mother. "We were glad to do it."

This will be the Archer children's first Christmas without their father, 1st Lt. Hal Archer of 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, because he is deployed to Iraq.

"It will be hard, but we all go through it as Army wives, spouses, moms and dads," Michelle said.

Col. Norbert Jocz, 3rd Brigade "Bulldogs" commander, interrupted the ceremony on behalf of Pvt. Gunner Chester, the 3rd Brigade mascot, because he felt the tree was not properly decorated.

"In order to correct this deficiency, Pvt. Chester would like to come forward and add additional ornaments to the tree so it truly reflects all the Soldiers that are here at Fort Riley," Jocz said.

After the "Bulldogs" placed their ornament on the tree, the ceremony continued with Ham, Harrison and Lucy lighting the tree.

Because of the cold weather, the rest of the ceremony was moved inside Summerall Hall, the post headquarters.

The festivities continued with the 11th annual Random Acts of Kindness Award presentation that honored eight individuals from Fort Riley and surrounding communities for their good deeds.

Their kind acts ranged from providing more than 300 turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner to fixing



DISCOM/Merritt
Santa Claus listens to one child's Christmas wishes after giving him a candy cane at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Nov. 30.

up a neighbor's home that was damaged by fire.

After the presentations, guests evoked the spirit of Christmas by singing three holiday carols — "Jingle Bells," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Here Comes Santa Claus" — as the 1st Infantry Division Band played.

During "Here Comes Santa Claus," jolly old Saint Nick and his helpers arrived with sleigh bells jingling.

Members of Better Opportuni-

ties for Single Soldiers committee dressed as elves and served cookies to guests, and Santa listened to the children's Christmas wishes as they sat on his knee.

"Today was good fun," said Spec. Robert Gazaway, a movement control specialist with the 266th Transportation Detachment who dressed as one of Santa's helpers. "The kids are excellent. They're cheerful and happy."

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Post, Army news briefly

Post offers ASIST classes

The Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program will conduct Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training classes monthly now through March.

Classes are scheduled Dec. 11-12, Jan. 18-19, Feb. 15-16 and March 8-9. The two-day classes will be taught in the basement classroom at Riley's Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

For more information, call Charles E. Jackson, Fort Riley suicide prevention training coordinator, at the Family and Soldier Support Center, 239-9434 or 239-1012.

Post graduation set for Dec. 13

Fort Riley military personnel, family members and civilian personnel who are graduates of local colleges or SOCAD college programs are invited to participate in the Fort Riley post-wide graduation center at 1 p.m. Dec. 13 at Riley's Conference Center.

For more information, call Ms. Adelina Morales at 239-6481.

Army needs broadcasters

Active duty authorizations for Army broadcast specialists – Military Occupation Specialty 46R – will increase over the next three years, and Soldiers interested in cross-training into that MOS are needed.

Eligible Soldiers include those on active duty in any MOS and Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in other MOS's who want to enter active duty.

For more information, send e-mail to goose.guzior@us.army.mil or call DSN 221-2578.



Col. Norbert Jocz (left), 3rd Bde. commander, and 3rd Bde. Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski attach a streamer to the HHC, 1st Bn., 41st Inf., guidon at a special ceremony Nov. 17. The streamer was awarded to the company because it had gone 90 days with none of its Soldiers caught driving under the influence.

Company earns no-DUI streamer

By Capt. Stephen M. Hall
1st Bn., 41st Inf.

Col. Norbert Jocz, commander of the 3rd "Buildog" Brigade, recognized Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, Soldiers, Nov. 17 for being DUI-free 90 or more days.

The company, led by 1st Sgt. James Lower, achieved the milestone in October and as of Nov. 22 was still operating without an alcohol-related incident.

Only one other company in 3rd Bde. achieved the same standard and record of performance.

Statistically, Infantry companies rarely achieve a record of more than 90 days without a DUI.

The "Hellraisers" of HHC were successful because they used common sense, attended monthly risk management training and had concerned noncommissioned officers

leadership.

Their recognition came on the day before the Thanksgiving Day holiday weekend, and afterwards, the Soldiers heard the same message from the company and battalion command teams: "Be adults. Make adult decisions. And, call for help as soon as you need it."

Lt. Col. Chris Beckert, the battalion commander, praised the Soldiers and first-line leaders for their demonstrated responsibility.

The 90-day period included three, long weekend holidays and a regimental ball, which are typically events that generate the possibility of alcohol-related driving incidents.

Lower, Jocz, and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitski congratulated the men but cautioned that the hardest part was to continue their efforts in sustaining the record.

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Scorpion expert stung

Irony hurt worse than deadly fat-tailed pest

By Sgt. Sarah Scully
40th PAD

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) – The irony stung worse than the scorpion.

A Soldier dedicated to studying dangerous wildlife recently was attacked by one of the aggressive fat-tailed scorpions he spent months warning other Soldiers to avoid.

Capt. Stephen Garvin, an entomologist with the 981st Medical Detachment supporting 3rd Army/U.S. Army Central in Kuwait, made a routine visit to a portable toilet at Camp Buehring around 5 a.m. Oct. 5 when he felt something crawling on his right ankle. Thinking it was a fly, he smacked the offending insect with his left foot and ground it against his ankle. That's when he felt the sting.

"I knew it was a scorpion as soon as it stung me," said Garvin, a 33-year-old active duty Soldier from Stillwater, Okla. "My first thought was, 'I can't believe this is happening.'"

After stomping on the 2-inch scorpion a few times to make sure it had died, Garvin scooped it up using toilet paper and immediately sought medical attention.

He recognized the crushed arachnid as one of the top three deadliest scorpions in the world, capable of killing a person in seven hours.

Within an hour and a half of the venom injection, Garvin suffered



40th PAD Photo
This 2-inch scorpion is as one of the top three deadliest scorpions in the world, capable of killing a person in seven hours.

extreme nausea, headache and dizziness.

"Things happened so fast; that's when I started getting concerned. I called the doctor over and said, 'Something's wrong,'" said Garvin, who passed out 10 minutes later and didn't wake up until the next evening.

Garvin was quickly airlifted to Camp Arifjan, put on a respirator and given an anti-venom shot. He slowly recovered and endured a 10-day migraine as a result of the scorpion's sting.

He had a "classic presentation" of symptoms, said Maj. Dennis Kilian, 3rd Army/U.S. Army Central force health prevention officer.

Although half of scorpion stings result in little or no venom

spread to the victim, Soldiers who are stung by a scorpion have a 50-percent chance of sharing Garvin's experience, Kilian said.

But, of the six stings reported at Camp Buehring during the last year, Garvin stood out as the only one to get venom injected.

He also stood out because he normally works with the same servicemembers who treated him for the sting. "They all know him, and they were all very concerned," said Maj. Brian Copeland, 981st Medical Detachment commander. Copeland also was wryly amused that an expert on scorpions was stung by one.

Now recovered, Garvin has already started receiving nicknames, such as "Captain Scorpion" and "The Scorpion King." Colleagues drop by with witty remarks such as, "There are better ways to make a name for yourself," and "You don't have to get stung to be able to teach Soldiers about the effects of scorpion venom."

It's "like being something between a celebrity and a circus freak," Garvin said with a smile.

He only had 30 days to go before finishing his first deployment, but he now has a story to tell and a souvenir to show. Garvin preserved the crushed scorpion that stung him and plans to use it in further teachings of dangers troops face in the Middle East.

"We all have to take something back," Kilian said.

Senator nominates employee's son for West Point appointment

Special to the Post

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback announced Nov. 29 the names of the 34 Kansans, including the son of a Fort Riley civilian employee, he has nominated to U.S. service academies.

Among the nominees are Mike Mizes, son of Cindy Mizes, director of the Civilian Personnel

Advisory Center on post, a student at Junction City High School and a resident of Milford, Kan.

"It is my honor to nominate each of these outstanding young people," Brownback said. "Their commitment to serving our country is admirable, and I wish them all the best of luck at they prepare for this important next step in their lives."

Mizes is a member of the Jr. ROTC "Blue Jay" Battalion at JCHS and has received a nomination to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Each year, graduating high school seniors interested in attending one of the service academies must receive a nomination from their U.S. representative or senator.





Paratroopers uncover weapons cache

Staff sgt.: Excitement of successful operation rebuilds Soldiers' spirits

By Spc. Joshua R. Ford
Special to the Post

BAYJI, Iraq — Eight armored vehicles crept through the narrow city street in Bayji searching for the objective. More than 20 Paratroopers would storm, secure and search the site for their target.

“That’s it. Let’s move,” the platoon sergeant calmly said over the radio.

Immediately, the element left their vehicles and raced toward the target house.

Troops placed ladders and hurled themselves over the cement wall into the courtyard.

Once the courtyard was breached, the Paratroopers entered the house and found multiple small arms. They also detained one man linked to an insurgent cell.

...

“It was exciting,” said Staff Sgt. Mica Snell, fire support sergeant with Company C, 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. “You fight every day, and when your spirits are getting low and you find (an insurgent), it brings them back up.”

Since the beginning of November, scenarios like this have been an almost everyday occurrence for the Co. C Paratroopers.

“We have caught a lot of the major players from multiple insurgent cells, providing a lot of useful information leading to the capture of more insurgents and the discoveries of their hideouts and weapons caches,” said Co. C 1st Sgt. Michael Green.

One of the biggest cache sites discovered was found on Bayji Island. The site included hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenade launchers with multiple



rounds, small arms, mortar tubes, mortar rounds and bomb-making material.

The find came after a unit called for support while detaining 11 individuals linked to an anti-Iraqi forces cell. The Co. C Paratroopers searched it and found a cache site that stretched across Bayji Island, Green.

The ordnance disposal team ran out of explosives while destroying the contents of the cache site because it contained so many weapons and so much ammunition.

The remaining weapons were

taken to Forward Operating Base Summerall to be destroyed.

Green added that after finding the cache there were no insurgent attacks in the area for more than 36 hours.

...

Later in the week, Coalition and Iraqi forces conducted a raid based off intelligence from the Coalition intelligence informing the Paratroopers of a terrorist cell that trademarks themselves with black uniforms.

When they searched the house, they found multiple black jumpsuits neatly hanging on a wall. Surrounding the uniforms was a scattered assortment of small arms and ammunition.

The “black jumpsuit” insurgent cell was shut down and out of commission in Bayji.

While raiding houses, Green said that the people understand why the Coalition forces are

there. They are very cooperative with the troops and often thank them for what they are doing for their community.

“When you are raiding a house in the middle of the night and the children run up and give you a hug you know you are making a difference,” Green said.

Because Co. C has treated the Iraqis with dignity and respect, they have been able to get more information from the people of Bayji, leading to the company’s success in creating a safer and more secure area for the Bayji citizens, Green said.

“As we have worked through this area, the people have grown more confident that we are actually here to help them, not only to get the bad guys out of Bayji, but to also help them in the situations the country has found itself in,” Green said.

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Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, December 8, 2006

Home of the Big Red One

Page 13

Community news briefly

Red Cross seeks interest for club

Fort Riley's American Red Cross office is exploring whether military teens would be interested in starting a year-round Red Cross Youth Club. A meeting to judge interest is planned from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Relocation Rooms at the Soldier and Family Support Center on Custer Hill. Interested teens should enter through the north door and follow directional signs to the meeting. Teens also can contact Annie Plaskett on Wednesday mornings or other staffers at the Red Cross office on post by calling 239-1887 to sign up or for more information.

Chapel to present musical program

The Morris Hill Chapel Gospel Service will present a community-wide Christmas music program, "Carols By Candlelight," at 6 p.m. Dec. 9 at the chapel in Building 5315 on Custer Hill. Special guests will include CD recording artist and gospel ensemble, Randall Fears & Blessed Through Christ of Kansas City, Kan.; the renowned K-State Singers of Kansas State University; and the Troubadours of Junction City.

The program will feature gospel singing, praise dance, readings and the singing of traditional Christmas carols. The free music program is a holiday gift to the military and surrounding communities and provides an opportunity for families and friends to gather for an evening of inspiration, reflection and fellowship. For more information, call (785) 375-3333.

Post teacher headed to India

Fort Riley Elementary School second grade teacher Leah Call, an educator for 26 years and a Fulbright Scholarship award recipient, is one of six U.S. K-12 teachers who will travel to India this month for the International Textile and Apparel Association's Fulbright Group Project.

Dr. Jana Hawley and Dr. Lynn Boorady, both from the University of Missouri, have teamed with others for the 30-day trip. The project is named "Fabric of Indian Life" and its goal is to enhance Asian studies on university campuses and in K-12 schools by focusing on textiles as a window to the culture of India.

To prepare for this trip, Call has immersed herself in the culture of India through study on her own, including an extensive reading list that included the politics, history, literature, folklore, textiles, religion, business, caste system and more.

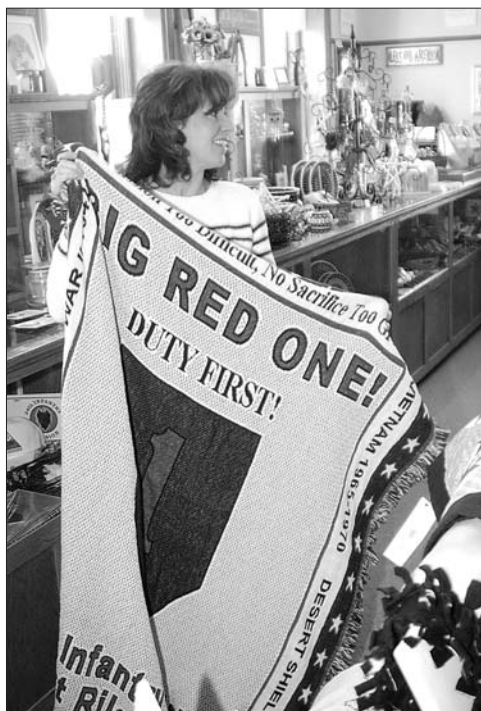
The group will travel to many different sites, including Delhi, New Delhi, Kachchh and Maumba and attend seminars led by Indian scholars, visit historical and cultural sites and spend time with families.

After returning, Call will share her experiences with students by making connections to identify and explore common threads between the cultures.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Custer's Cottage



Military spouse and Custer's Cottage volunteer Deb Hicks refolds a 1st Infantry Division afghan at the store. The "Big Red One" blankets sell at Custer's Cottage for \$45.

Store gets new name, new items

By Anna Morelock
Staff writer

The afternoon light filtering through a window at Custer's Cottage lights up a "Big Red One" stained glass hanging propped up in a window sill. Piles of Fort Riley and First Infantry Division afghans lay folded in a trunk.

In the middle of the room, a rack stands draped with camouflage purses. Lining the edges of the store, glass cases house things such as Fort Riley pint glasses, coin racks, Operation Iraqi Freedom knives and Polish pottery.

On top of one of the cases, a basket holds handmade cards decorated with 16 different definitions of the word "hooah" (to include "referring to or meaning anything and everything except 'no,'" "I don't know the answer, but I'll check on it," and "go to the next slide").

Near the cash register, pewter 1st Inf. Div. ornaments dangle from red ribbons on a display stand.

Formerly known as The Shoppe, the store attached to Fort Riley's U.S. Cavalry Museum is updating its merchandise and its image.

The Shoppe was given a new name to help distinguish it from other stores at Fort Riley, said Volunteer Manager Shannon DelBorrell.

"If you ask people, 'Have you been to The Shoppe?' they kind of pause for a minute and think, 'OK, is she talking about the PX?' Is she talking about the shopette?" We needed something that really tied it to Fort Riley but made it its own entity," she explained.

Most of the store's business comes from visitors to the museum, but DelBorrell said the goal is to get the word out that it's more than just a craft shop.

See Custer's Cottage, Page 19

5 state schools up for ribbon

Morris Hill among those nominated for blue ribbon

Kansas State Dept. of Ed.

TOPEKA, Kan. — Five elementary schools, including two in Geary County Unified School District 475, have been nominated by the Kansas State Department of Education for the 2006-2007 National No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

Nominations for Morris Hill Elementary School on Fort Riley and Eisenhower Elementary School in Junction City and three others were forwarded to U.S. Department of Education. The final selection of Blue Ribbon Schools for 2007 will be made in September 2007.

Program honors school improvement

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors elementary and secondary schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap, recognizing those schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have dramatically improved student performance to high levels in reading and mathematics.

The program also recognizes schools whose students achieve in the top 10 percent.

A committee of school administrators, staff members from previous Blue Ribbon Schools and representatives from the Kansas Association of School Boards and Kansas National Education Association reviewed the data on schools deemed to be dramatically improving and achieving at high levels.

The result of the process was the selection of the five schools in two categories.

Morris Hill and Eisenhower were included in Category A schools that qualified in the top 10 percent of the state with at least 40 percent disadvantaged students.

Herrington Elementary School in USD 487 qualified in Category B — schools dramatically improving with at least 40 percent disadvantaged students.

Schools achieving at high level performed in the top 10 percent of the state on the 2005 reading and mathematics assessments in terms of the percent of students who performed at "meets standard and above."

Schools where any subgroup fell more than five percentage points below the performance of the aggregate were eliminated.

The committee also considered the demographic mix of the schools and the performance trend on assessments over a three-year period in determining whether to nominate any of the schools for the No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

Dramatically improving schools met the minimum requirements set out in the program, ensuring that 40 percent or more of the school's population came from disadvantaged backgrounds, that the school had not been on improvement in the past two years and that the percentage of the school's students participating in the 2006 reading and mathematics assessments who performed at the meets standard level or above was at least at the 60th percentile.

Volunteers complete 1st sponsorship

Custer House gets deep cleaning inside, out for holidays

By Frank Smith
Special to the Post

Supporters of the 1st Infantry Division Museum successfully completed their first sponsorship day Dec. 2 with a day-long cleanup of the famed Custer House on Main Post.

Volunteers from Irwin Army Community Hospital, the Dental Activity, the post veterinary services activity, the 1st Infantry Division legal office, the museum staff and members of the Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Riley worked to clean up the interior of the house and surrounding grounds.

Seasonal decorations were added to the house for the first time in years, creating a visitor friendly exterior and interior for the duration of the holidays.

Although the cleanup was not scheduled to begin until 9 a.m., eager volunteers began working as early as 8 a.m., eventually culminating with an on-site work force in excess of 60 people by 10:30 in the morning.

Jimi Parker, HASFR and event co-organizer, said she was "overwhelmed by the numbers of volunteers and their dedication to doing the very best job possible."

Excited children hurried to the entrance of Craig Gym, drawn by the sound of Fort Riley Fire Department sirens. "Black Lion" families huddled in the cold wind as they awaited a surprise visitor. After the fire engine entered the parking lot, cheers erupted from the mouths of the children when Santa Claus climbed off the vehicle holding his bag of gifts.

More than 150 Soldiers and their household members gathered at Craig Gym Dec. 2 to celebrate the holidays as one "Black Lion" family. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the gym was filled with hol-

iday music, the smell of Christmas goodies and the sounds of excited children.

This Christmas party gave Soldiers and their families the opportunity to gather in a spirit of fellowship one last time before departing on block leave and beginning preparations for a deployment to Iraq.

"Black Lion" Family Readiness Group volunteers provided several activities for Soldiers and their families. Children could decorate Christmas cookies with Company H or make Christmas tree ornaments with Company D.

Meanwhile, Companies B and C helped children play holiday themed games. Co. B operated the

In my three years here, I have never seen anything like this. We had doctors, dentists, nurses, clinic NCOs, the post veterinarian, BOSS volunteers, numerous DA civilians, the wife of the DENT-TAC commander, retirees, spouses and even children. At one point we had a waiting line just to sign in!"

Col. Dawn M. Smith, IACH and Medical Department commander, said, "Our museums, which include the Custer House, are a primary means for creating a positive image of the Army and fostering good will with our (civilian) regional partners."

"Every day, visitors from as close as Ogden, Junction City and Manhattan and as far away as Nebraska stop to learn from our historical resources. With each one of these important visitors we have only one chance to get it right."

"Spending one day a quarter working on the Custer House Museum to insure that we present a superior image is a bargain. When we developed this project, we put together a list of primary objectives and a backup project for the day, just in case we had enough volunteers to accomplish

See Clean up, Page 14

'Black Lion' families celebrate holidays

By Capt. Sean McCoy
1st Bn., 28th Inf.

Excited children hurried to the entrance of Craig Gym, drawn by the sound of Fort Riley Fire Department sirens.

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"Black Lion" kids decorate Christmas cookies at Craig Gym during the battalion's holiday party Dec. 2.

See 'Black Lions', Page 16

Birthing rate increases on post

By Lt. Col. Craig Webb
IACH

Along with the rest of Fort Riley, the effects of the recent and continuing population growth are being felt at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

With the population increase and the influx of young families, an increased rate of infant deliveries is anticipated. The recent renovations to the Women's Health Clinic and the Newborn Nursery are being utilized and appreciated by patients and staff alike.

The newborn delivery rate has increased from an average 47 per month a year ago to an average of 62 per month in the past six months. This increased delivery rate has resulted in an increased demand for well-baby and immunization services.

Well-baby visits are an important part of the healthcare maintenance of infants and toddlers. The primary goal of well-baby visits is to ensure normal growth and development of children, as well as answer any questions parents may have about their children.

The well-baby visit also is an opportunity to provide anticipatory



FOR YOUR
HEALTH

ry guidance for parents about the safety and health of their children. In addition to an early follow-up appointment two to three days after discharge from the newborn nursery, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends well-child visits at two weeks; two, four, six and 12 months; and at 15 to 18 months of life. These months coincide with many important developmental milestones, as well as recommended immunization time frames.

While these are recommended visit milestones, a visit within one to three weeks of the recommended time is acceptable.

To assist our patients with obtaining appointments, we suggest parents call early. Appointments open at least one month in advance, so begin calling one month before the planned appointment.

Be flexible. Patients may not see the same provider at each

visit. If your baby has an issue that demands continuity of care, we will ensure that appropriate follow-up with the same provider is arranged.

Be reassured. If your child does not receive his or her two-month immunizations within a few days of their two-month age, don't worry. While it is preferable to stick to guidelines, a one- to three-week delay is acceptable.

Keep appointments. If you need to cancel for any reason, let us know as far in advance as possible. This allows others to schedule an appointment.

Be punctual. Appointments that start late are often caused by an earlier patient arriving late. Plan to arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

Those patients arriving 10 minutes after their scheduled appointment time may need to be rescheduled.

IACH remains committed to providing the highest quality patient care, while simultaneously improving continuity of care and access to care. We look forward to continuing to serve our youngest patient population in our Well-Baby and Immunization Clinics.

Clean up

continued from page 13

both. Thanks to the unmatched volunteer spirit that exists here at Fort Riley, we not only completed the primary and backup objectives, but we did so before the scheduled end of our sponsorship day."

The increased surveillance of the Custer House also resulted in a long-term maintenance benefit. Many items in need of repair, which had gone unnoticed because regularly scheduled inspections are severely limited by available funds, were identified for repair.

Two chimneys in the 21-A side need to have their rodent and aviary exclusion wire re-installed, all the exterior steps need to be repainted and anti-slip material applied, rotted wood in the front porch floor of the 21-B side needs to be replaced, the two water leaks in the ceiling of the 21-B side need to be repaired and the ceiling patched and exterior stepping stones need to be leveled to prevent someone from tripping, just to name the most urgent items based on safety con-



Volunteers from IACH, DENTAC and other organizations on post work to clean up the yard at the Custer House Dec. 2. Courtesy photo

cerns. Additionally, important maintenance items, such as the need to replace worn stone and rotted wood on the second floor window frames, repaint the fence, remulch all the flower beds, plant more grass, replace worn curtains, repaint peeling interior paint, replace worn carpets and replace broken light fixtures were also identified. The intent now will be to identify funds and pro-

gram the work. With the first Museum Sponsorship Day deemed a success, plans already are being developed for the Spring Sponsorship Day. Besides another interior cleaning, Sponsorship Day coordinators hope to be able to make repairs to all the safety deficiencies noted.

Planners also are looking at having an end-of-day cookout and horseshoe throwing contest.

PATRIOT GROUP
3 x 5"
Black Only
3x5PatriotGroup11/17

CLAY COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPM
3 x 4"
Black Only
3x4ClayCounty11/2006f

USADISCOUNTERS
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
bw same as last week

SONY-ARMED FORCES COMM.
3 x 10.5"
Black only
728746 See the world



Zero to Three: Helping children through deployments

By Dorinda Williams
Zero to 3

Deployment can take a heavy toll on military families. As parents of young children cope with their own feelings, it is easy to lose sight of what their babies or toddlers may be experiencing. Although often unable to express themselves well, babies and toddlers do miss the active duty parent and need help getting through this difficult time.

Even the youngest baby can miss his or her deployed parent. The earliest years have so much to do with making positive bonds and building trust. Very young children are wired to seek close and trusting relationships with their caregivers.

Bonding continues through routine

Through everyday routines, such as book reading, diaper changing, feeding, cuddling and soothing, parents provide experiences that build bonds. When the deployed parent leaves, so do some of these

sources of comfort. Fortunately, the remaining caregiver can help ease this loss by continuing to offer loving activities and routines.

Caregivers can be supportive during deployments simply by understanding how young children's emotions and behaviors are connected.

Young children who are missing their parent might show changes in behavior, including regression (a return to earlier behaviors, such as thumb sucking), clinginess, sleep difficulties, aggression or other challenging behaviors. Caregivers who recognize that young children often communicate their feelings through their behaviors may be more likely to respond with empathy and patience, rather than with frustration and anger.

It is important for babies and toddlers to stay connected with



Dorinda Williams



More information

ZERO TO THREE's mission is to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers and their families. For more information on ways to support you and your young children, visit www.zerotothree.org/military on the Web.
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the active duty parent as much as possible during deployment.

A young child needs to know that his parent remains an important part of the family and that he is held in his parent's heart and mind. This can be communicated in many ways. For example, letters, photos and artwork can be exchanged and celebrated throughout the deployment. These things can be placed in albums or other special places, available to a young child to explore before and after the parent's return.

The remaining caregiver can share memories of the deployed parent, including times that the

parent spent with the young child. These stories can paint a vivid and loving picture of the deployed parent and the special role that parent played and continues to play in the child's life.

Activities keep families connected

Many other activities can help keep family members feel connected. Before deployment, the active duty parent can videotape himself or herself reading books or singing songs. The videotape can be played daily, even becoming a part of the bedtime routine.

Pictures of the deployed parent can be hung on the wall, refrigerator or even given to the child for them to carry around, kiss or talk to every day.

Young children can get a "kiss" from the deployed parent every night by grabbing a Hershey's chocolate out of a big bowl. These kinds of experiences can become their own comforting routines and rituals.

During a combat deployment, family members may be understandably anxious about the active duty parent's safety and turn to news coverage for information. It's important that caregivers are sensitive to the impact that news media images may have on children, even babies and toddlers.

Very young children can feel distressed and confused by the sights and sounds coming from the television and by their caregivers' reactions. Caregivers too focused on the media coverage may become upset or not as attuned to the needs of their young children.

It is important that families have access to direct and reliable sources of information, such as command sponsored spouse

organizations whose representatives will be available to address their fears and concerns. Caregivers can then focus their energy and attention, not on the television, but on establishing a relaxed and nurturing home for themselves and their children.

Caregivers should also seek support

The deployment stage can be exhausting and it is important for parents and caregivers to find ways to be good to themselves. By nurturing themselves, they have a greater capacity to care for their babies and toddlers.

Families are encouraged to seek support through relatives, friends and community agencies. Counseling services, playgroups, spiritual organizations, parenting education services and child care agencies are often readily available to military families on and off post.

For information about available services in the Fort Riley area, contact Army Community Service at (785) 239-9435.

MANHATTAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
3 x 4"
Black Only
3x4 MCVB Trust Yourself

VERNON JEWELERS
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Black Only
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BANK OF AMERICA- AFC
6 x 10.5"
Black Only
725760 Pull color serving tray





CFC collects more than \$208k

Fort Riley's Combined Federal Campaign surpassed its goal this year with a total of \$208,176.28 in donations.

Dori Farrow, campaign coordinator, said she wondered if the post would reach the goal, but last minute donations by the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which just returned from the National Training Center, added more than \$46,000 and put the campaign over its goal of \$175,000.



Classified Runover
4 x 21.25"
Black Only



1st Bn., 28th Inf., Photo
"Black Lion" family members make Christmas ornaments at Craig Gym during the battalion's holiday party Dec. 2.

'Black Lions'

continued from page 13

cake walk, a musical chairs game set to holiday music. Winners took home Christmas cupcakes. Co. C let children try to "Pin the Nose on Rudolph" and play a bean bag toss with Frosty the Snowman.

Company A helped parents by providing a bounce house so kids

could work off all the energy they had gained from eating Christmas treats.

The day's highlight was Santa Claus. Jolly old Saint Nick took several hours in his busy schedule to pose for pictures with "Black Lion" children and to listen to their Christmas wish lists.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - MANHATTA
2 x 4"
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THE PATHFINDER
2 x 5"
Black Only
2nd 5 Pathfinder Unique Gifts





CLASSIFIED ADS





'Here's Love' a family affair at little theater

By Mike Heronemus
Editor

"Here's Love" brought out nearly the whole Cruz family at Fort Riley, and dad will be home from Iraq in time to see them all perform on the Junction City Little Theatre stage.

Sisters Amanda, 18, and Stephanie, 10, play Doris and Susan Walker, the mother and daughter in the musical adaptation of the holiday film classic "Miracle on 34th Street." Their real mom, Daisy, first plays Mrs. Finfer, the mother who frantically tries to signal the Macy's Santa Claus not to promise her son the gift he's asking for and then later plays a mailwoman.

Ramon plays Marvin Shellhammer, a character Ramon describes as a store manager who always makes dumb decisions, such as ordering too many plastic alligators.

"Here's Love" is Ramon's debut in theater productions, and he likes it, he said. One reason for that is the part he plays. He said he can really get into the part "because I've made some pretty dumb decisions."

The holiday production is a musical, and "we didn't even know he could sing," Daisy said. "I was listening to 'Sixteen Tons' at home one day and he just started singing it. He's got a beautiful deep voice," she bragged.

Ramon gets to display that talent in one of his favorite parts of the play, when he sings a rhythmic talking song. He said he also is enjoying singing with his sister and others in the play.

The other three Cruzes can boast a little more stage experience. Daisy appeared in last year's JCLT production of "1940's Radio Hour" with Amanda. That was Daisy's only other time on stage, but Amanda went on to sing and play the part of

Bloody Mary in the Junction City High School production of "South Pacific" the following March.

"Acting is hard," admits Stephanie, who said learning her lines was the hardest thing to do.

Even so, she is doubling her stage experience this season by performing in the Ware Elementary School play, "I Need a Christmas Vacation," at Fort Riley while doing "Here's Love" downtown.

The school play is about kids who get stuck in school at Christmas because of a blizzard.

For Amanda, the best thing about "Here's Love" is the singing. "I love singing in the play. The songs (by the renowned composer Meredith Willson) express the character's feelings, so it adds to the character," she explained.

Playing her sister's mother isn't a big change for Amanda, either. "She's a mother figure at home (when it comes to Stephanie). She doesn't act any differently toward her at home," Daisy said.

If you go:

What: "Here's Love," written by Valentine Davies, directed by Dr. Patricia Dozier; music director Chris Smith

When: 8 p.m. Dec. 15 and 16, 2 p.m. Dec. 17

Where: Junction City Little Theatre, 335 W. 18th St., near the Buffalo Soldier Memorial

Cost: \$12 for adults, \$7 for students

Tickets: Available at the door or reserved by calling 238-6220

Having her daughters in lead roles doesn't bother Daisy, she said. When she auditioned, Daisy just tried out for any part. She didn't have her eye on a lead role. "It's just fun being part of the theater -- as long as I can sing," she explained.



Post/Heronemus

Members of the Cruz family -- Stephanie (second from left), Amanda (third from left), Daisy (fourth from left) and Ramon II (fifth from left) -- sit in the courtroom scene in rehearsal Dec. 1 for "Here's Love," the Christmas holiday musical being staged by the Junction City Little Theatre Dec. 15-17.

Cast:

Doris Walker -- Amanda Cruz
Susan Walker -- Stephanie Cruz

Fred Gaily -- Dustin Powell
Kris Kringle -- Chris Smith
Marvin Shellhammer -- Ramon Cruz II

Drunken Santa and R.H. Macy -- Zan Bertolino

Mrs. Sawyer and bailiff -- Ashley Thomas (Fort Riley)
Vendor and Judge Group -- Marcus Field

Shopper and Thomas Mara, DA -- Michael Brooks

Mrs. Finfer and mailwoman -- Daisy Cruz

Henrika, rocking horse -- Crystal Foxwonn

Henrika's mother and Ms. Crookshank -- Sarah McMillan Beckman

Also in cast: Alan Drew, Charles Jarrot, Jordan Biggs, Ola Reid, Neil Glaser, Paul Patrick Wright, Sharon Glasser

PINNACLE FLOORING

2 x 5"

Black Only

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RAISEDANA BAHMAN

2 x 5"

Black Only

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UNION PACIFIC-APC

5 x 9"

Black Only

727944 full color service to c

ALLSTATE INSURANCE

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Black Only

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PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,

1 x 1.5"

Black Only

1x1.5 Prairie Hawk

HOMESTEAD AUTO

1 x 1.5"

Black Only

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1 x 2"

Black Only

1x31st1stMetChMan10/27 TF



Community news briefly

Commissary sets holiday hours

Pre-Christmas, Dec. 18 – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Christmas Day – Closed
New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 – 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
New Year's Day – Closed

Child screenings being offered

The Exceptional Family Member Program and the New Parent Support Program are offering developmental screenings for all military families who have children from birth to kindergarten age.

The screenings will include vision, hearing and an Ages and Stages Assessment. There also will be a different educational theme offered each month.

Screenings will be conducted from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 13 at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, on Custer Hill.

For more information and to RSVP, call 239-9435 and ask for EFMP or NPSP.

Family support group to meet

The Exceptional Family Member Program Support Group will meet at the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264, Dec. 12.

For more information, contact the EFMP office at 239-9435.

Child car seat checks offered

Anyone wanting a child's car seat checked by a safety expert should call 239-2514 to make an appointment. Appointments are available from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Building 407, Pershing Court.

Children younger than 4 are required to sit in car seats. Those 4 and older must wear seat belts. Child safety advocates say children 4 to 7 years old should sit in booster seats that allow seat belts to fit them properly.

RANDY DAVIS DENTISTRY
2 x 2"
Black Only
2d Davis Dentistry

DAILY UNION
6 x 12.5"
Black Only
AUSA

Custer's Cottage

continued from page 13



More information

Where: Building 205, U.S. Cavalry Museum

Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday
Phone: 239-2743

To find out more about volunteering at Custer's Cottage, call Shannon DelBorrell at the store on Wednesdays at 239-2743, or contact her during the week at (785) 210-7066.

ing at the store for just over a year and has recently taken over as the volunteer manager. "I think it's important for people to know that the shop is run entirely by volunteers. There are no paid positions; everybody is there because they

love working there. You get attached to it."

Custer's Cottage is always looking for volunteers to help out, DelBorrell said. It's a simple job. There are step-by-step instructions for everything, she added,

and people can volunteer as much as they'd like, once a week, once a month or even once a year.

"Every five times that you volunteer, you get a gift certificate for the shop and we also reimburse child care within reason," DelBorrell said of some of the benefits of volunteering.

"I think the shop really speaks for itself. You really have to go there to experience it, to understand what it's all about and what's there," DelBorrell said.

Proceeds from the store go to the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club to be used for scholarships and other community efforts at Fort Riley.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-3032.

KPA
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The Flu season



U.S. ARMY RESERVES- ARMED FORC
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